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Sub 1/

1. (Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:

a base member having a base plate with a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions; and

a rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base plate to extend inwardly into a snowboard boot receiving area above said base plate, said rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member, said first latch member being pivotally supported about a first pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis to selectively engage a heel portion of the snowboard boot.

said first latch member being arranged to move downwardly toward said base member and laterally outwardly upon application of a force on said first latch member in a direction substantially towards said base member by the snowboard boot, and to move upwardly away from said base member and laterally inwardly upon removal of said force.

Please replace claim 2 with the following once amended version:

Sub 2/

2. (Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:

a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;

a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member, said first latch member being pivotally supported about a first pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis; and

a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member, said second latch member being pivotally supported about a second pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis,

said first and second latch members being arranged to move downwardly toward said base member and laterally outwardly relative to each other upon application of a force on said first and second latch members in the direction substantially towards said base member.

Please replace claim 4 with the following once amended version:

Sub 4/

(Amended) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, wherein

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said first and second latch members are arranged to move laterally apart relative to each other from first and second initial positions to first and second guide positions upon application of said force on said first and second latch members in said direction substantially towards said base member.

Please replace claim 11 with the following once amended version:

as

Sub B 11. (Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:

- a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;
- a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position, said front binding member being arranged to move in a forward direction from said latched position to said release position relative to said longitudinal axis; and
- a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member, said first latch member being pivotally supported about a first pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis,

said first latch member being arranged to move laterally upon application of a force in a direction substantially towards said base member.

Please replace claim 12 with the following once amended version:

all

Sub B 12. (Amended) A snowboard binding according to claim 11, wherein

- said front binding member includes a front pawl urged in a rear direction to said latched position by a front biasing member that applies an urging force on said front pawl, and a release lever coupled to said front pawl to move said front pawl from said latched position to said release position upon application of a force on said release lever that is greater than said urging force of said front biasing member.

Please replace claim 18 with the following once amended version:

a7 Sub B 18. (Amended) A snowboard binding system, comprising:

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a snowboard boot having a sole portion, a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion, a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion; and

a snowboard binding configured to be releasable coupled to said snowboard boot, said snowboard binding including

a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;

a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position to selectively hold said front catch portion;

a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said first rear catch portion of said snowboard boot; and

a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said second rear catch portion of said snowboard boot,

said first and second latch members being arranged to move downwardly toward said base member and laterally apart relative to each other upon application of a force on said first and second latch members in a direction substantially towards said base member by said snowboard boot.

Please replace claim 28 with the following once amended version:

28. (Amended) A snowboard binding system according to claim 27, wherein said base member includes a mounting portion and a pair of side attachment portions extending perpendicularly from said mounting portion, said side attachment portions having said first and second latch members coupled thereto, respectively.

Please replace claim 41 with the following once amended version:

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- Sub 41. (Amended) A snowboard boot, comprising:
- an upper portion; and
 - a sole portion coupled to said upper portion, said sole portion having a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion.
 - said first rear catch portion including at least one longitudinally extending first notch with a first open rear end and said second rear catch portion including at least one longitudinally extending second notch with a second open rear end,
 - said first open rear end having a height and a depth substantially equal to a height and depth of said first notch, and said second open rear end having a height and a depth substantially equal to a height and depth of said second notch.

Please add new claims 49-53 as follows:

- Sub 49. (New) A snowboard binding system, comprising:
- a snowboard boot having a sole portion, a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion, a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion,
 - said first rear catch portion including a pair of substantially parallel first notches located at different heights relative to each other and said second rear catch portion including a pair of substantially parallel second notches located at different heights relative to each other; and
 - a snowboard binding configured to be releasable coupled to said snowboard boot. said snowboard binding including
 - a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;
 - a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position to selectively hold said front catch portion;
 - a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch

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member movable relative to said base member to selectively engage one of said first notches of said snowboard boot; and
a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively engage one of said second notches of said snowboard boot,
said first and second latch members being arranged to initially move laterally apart relative to each other to guide positions upon application of a force in a direction substantially towards said base member by said snowboard boot,
said first and second latch members being further arranged to subsequently move laterally towards each other to locked positions upon removal of said force such that said first and second latch members engage one of said first notches and one of said second notches, respectively when in said locked positions to selectively couple said snowboard boot to said snowboard binding at one of two predetermined heights relative to said snowboard binding.

50. (New) A snowboard binding system, comprising:

a snowboard boot having a sole portion, a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion, a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion; and

a snowboard binding configured to be releasable coupled to said snowboard boot, said snowboard binding including

a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;

a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position to selectively hold said front catch portion to said snowboard binding when said front binding member is in said latched position;

a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch

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member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said first rear catch portion of said snowboard boot; and
a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said second rear catch portion of said snowboard boot,
said first and second latch members being arranged to move laterally apart relative to each other upon application of a force in a direction substantially towards said base member by said snowboard boot,
said first and second latch members and said first and second rear catches being configured to allow forward longitudinal movement of said snowboard boot relative to said first and second latch members,
said front binding member and said front catch being configured to limit longitudinal movement of said front catch in a forward direction along said longitudinal axis when said front binding member is in said latched position holding said front catch.

51. (New) A snowboard boot, comprising:

an upper portion; and

a sole portion coupled to said upper portion, said sole portion having a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion,

said first rear catch portion including a pair of longitudinally extending substantially parallel first notches and said second rear catch portion including a pair of longitudinally extending substantially parallel second notches,

said first notches being arranged at different vertical heights and being at least partially aligned with each other as viewed in a vertical direction, and said second notches being arranged at different vertical heights and being at least partially aligned with each other as viewed in said vertical direction.

52. (New) A snowboard binding according to claim 1, further comprising